



Convention on Biological Diversity

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THIRD INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF ACADEMIC
INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN
BIOSAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING
Tsukuba, Japan, 15-17 February 2010

WORKSHOP ON BIOSAFETY EDUCATION IN ASIA HELD IN 2007 AND A STATEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASIAN BIOSAFETY EDUCATION NETWORK (ABEN)

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is pleased to circulate herewith, for the information of participants attending the Third International Meeting of Academic Institutions and Other Organizations involved in Biosafety Education and Training, a document on the “Workshop on Biosafety Education in Asia”, which held at the University of Tsukuba, Japan, on 31 October and 1 November 2007 and a statement on the establishment of the Asian Biosafety Education Network (ABEN).
2. The workshop was a follow-up to the recommendations of the second International Meeting of Academic Institutions and Other Organizations involved in Biosafety Education and Training, which was held in Kuala Lumpur from 16 to 18 April 2007.
3. The document is reproduced in the form and language it was submitted to the Secretariat.

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Workshop on Biosafety Education in Asia

Date: October 31(Wednesday) and November 1 (Thursday), 2007

Venue: Biosystem Studies Building Room #504,

University of Tsukuba

Japan

Organizer and sponsor

University of Tsukuba

Collaborated by Institute of Advanced Studies, United Nations University

And

By International Agri-Biotechnology Association of Japan (NGO/NPO)

University of Tsukuba would like to organize an informal regional information sharing on the present status of the biosafety education in Asia.

The initial idea was discussed to make a case development on the knowledge and experience sharing between Japan and Malaysia then to the country such as Myanmar where no human resources available for the subject. The meeting is also a follow up after Decision BS-III/3

(<http://www.cbd.int/biosafety/cop-mop/result.aspx?id=11059>) Also the meeting is one of informal follow up after SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN BIOSAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/2/4 18 June 2007)

The major objectives are:

- 1) Update the current status of the network in-country or own institutional activities on the biosafety education;
- 2) Demonstration of hand-on research based biosafety education at graduate level at University of Tsukuba;
- 3) Discussion on model program on hand-on based biosafety education suitable for the region; and
- 4) Specific collaborative needs in neighboring countries.



The outcome will be a short recommendation and further plan for collaboration on the biosafety education and training for Asian partners. The outcome also will be introduced at the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety as an informal document.

Workshop schedule :

October 31 (Wed.) : Workshop 9 am-12 pm and 1:00pm to 5pm

November 1 (Thu.) : Workshop 9 am - 12 pm and 1:00pm to 5pm

November 2 (Fri.): Excursion within Tsukuba science city to visit affiliated organizations such as NIAES and NIAS. And individual discussion on bilateral collaborations

Key Participants:

Rofina Yasmin Othman, Prof. Dr.,

Center for Research in Biotechnology and Agriculture, Faculty of Science, University of Malaya, Malaysia

Halijah Ibrahim, Prof. Dr.,,

Institute of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Malaya, Malaysia

Myint Thein, Dr., President,

Myanmar Academy of Agricultural, Forestry, Livestock and Fishery Sciences (MAAFLFS), Myanmar

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Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar

Desiree Menancio Hautea Prof. Dr.,,

University of The Philippines Los Banos, Institute of Plant Breeding, UPLB College, Philippines

Damayanti Buchori, Prof. Dr.,,

Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, Bogor Agriculture University, Indonesia

Behzad Ghareyazie, Prof. Dr.,,

President, Biosafety Society of Iran, and Head, New Technologies Division, Center for Strategic Research, Iran

Nguyen Thi Quynh, Prof. Dr.,

Institute of Tropical Biology, Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology, Vietnam

Dayuan Xue, Prof. Dr.,,

College of Life and Environmental Science, Central University for Nationalities, Peoples Republic of China

Sudip K. Rakshit, Prof. Dr.,,

Vice President-Research Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

A.H. Zakri Prof. Dr., Director,

Institute of Advanced Studies, United Nations University, Yokohama, Japan

B. Pisupati, DR.

UNEP and Institute of Advanced Studies, United Nations University, Yokohama, Japan

Kazuo Watanabe, Prof. Dr., Organizer

Plant Genetic Diversity, Environmental Biosafety and Bioethics Division of Bioindustrial Sciences, Gene Research Center, University of Tsukuba, Japan



Program

October 31 (Wednesday), 2007

9 to 9:15 am Coordination of travels and logistics

9:15 to 10:00 am

I. Introduction of the meeting: University representatives

II. Introduction of Activities at University of Tsukuba and Japan

10:00 to 10:30 am Tea/Coffee break

10:30 a -12:00 p

III. Introduction of the biosafety capacity building survey by UNU-IAS

IV. Introduction of individual activities within institutions and linkage among institutions at each country (half an hour for each country)

i) China

ii) Indonesia

12:00 – 1:00 p Lunch

1:30 p to 3pm

Cont. IV. Introduction of linkage among institutions and individual activities within institutions at each country (half an hour for each country)

iii) Vietnam

iv) Philippines

v) Myanmar

3p to 3:30 p Tea / Coffee break

3:30 to 5 pm

Cont. IV. Introduction of individual activities within institutions and linkage among institutions at each country (half an hour for each country)

vi) Malaysia

vii) Iran

6:00- 7:30 p Reception



November 1 (Thursday), 2007

9- 10 am

viii) Thailand and India

10-10:30a Tea / Coffee Break

10:30 a – 12:00 p

V. Demonstration of hand-on research based biosafety education at graduate level at University of Tsukuba

12 – 1pm Lunch

1 – 3pm

VI. Discussion on model program on hand-on based biosafety education suitable for the region

3 – 3:30 p Tea / Coffee Break

3:30- 5pm

VII. Specific collaborative needs in neighboring countries.

5 p Closing

November 2 (Friday), 2007

Individual discussions or Excursion to Biosafety research conducting organizations within Tsukuba

November 3 (Saturday), 2007 departure to home.

Biosafety education: Building capacity for biotechnology applications

Sirs:

We, professors from academic institutions and researchers from public agencies in Asia, have met at the University of Tsukuba, Japan for sharing of thoughts on the biosafety education and agricultural biotechnology development. This is an independent and informal initiative following up on the SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN BIOSAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/2/4 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18th June 2007 co-hosted by the University of Malaya).

The world is differentiating towards two alternative directions on agricultural biotechnology; 1) regulation-oriented without broad and fair recognition of the technology with non-scientific rationale and considerations, or 2) demand-oriented approach to meet domestic and international needs and trends to alleviate the food security concerns and to improve livelihood.

Whatever policy, economic and social implications that arise as the end-point of the biotechnology applications, technology per se is a neutral and an independent entity. Human conduct dictates the consequences of biotechnology use. As educators, it is our mission to provide and promote unbiased scientific understanding of biotechnology and products thereof, in order to develop human resources that are able to make appropriate end-point decisions for the well-being and prosperity of mankind. We shall also focus on the needs for education on ELSI (ethics, legal and social implication) associated with the technology. Stakeholders will then be able to have multidisciplinary and participatory discussions towards common understanding but without compulsory consensus.

R & D on biotechnology should not be restricted as a means for seeking options for future generations. Enhancing knowledge-based human capacity on technology development should be emphasized for its use, safety and to alleviate concerns.

We have agreed to cooperate to support human resource development, education and research opportunities for development of proprietary biotechnology and its products taking into account ELSI components.

To accomplish this mandate we hereby announce the establishment of “Asian Biosafety Education Network” (ABEN) with the presence of scientists and academicians from public sector of China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

We invite institutions / societies interested in biosafety education to join us.

Dayuan Xue, Prof. Dr.,

College of Life and Environmental Science, Central University for Nationalities, Peoples Republic of China

Behzad Ghareyazie, Prof. Dr.,

President, Biosafety Society of Iran, and Head, New Technologies Division, Center for Strategic Research, Iran

Kazuo Watanabe, Prof. Dr., Organizer

Plant Genetic Diversity, Environmental Biosafety and Bioethics Division of Bioindustrial Sciences, Gene Research Center, University of Tsukuba, Japan

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